

*Amendments to the Claims*

1. (Currently Amended) A washing machine having a top plate with an opening therein, comprising:

a tub for holding laundry, water and detergent;

a detergent storing assembly located in the top plate opening for storing the detergent and providing the detergent to the tub on washing, the detergent storing assembly including a detergent box provided for storing the detergent, and a lid part fixed to a topside of the detergent box for opening/closing the detergent box;

a cabinet having the tub installed inside thereof wherein the detergent storing assembly is loaded on a loading hole formed at one side of the cabinet; and

a packing means sealing a gap between the detergent storing assembly lid part and the cabinet top plate to prevent external water from flowing in the cabinet;

wherein the lid frame comprises an insertion groove to which the packing means is fitted.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 2\_1, the lid part comprising:

a lid frame fixed to the detergent box and having an opening at a center to permit the detergent in the detergent box; and

a revolvable lid installed at one side of the lid frame to open/close the topside of the

detergent box.

4. (Original) The washing machine as claimed in claim 3, wherein a bottom of the lid frame is mounted on a periphery of the loading hole.

5. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 4, wherein the packing means is provided between the bottom of the lid frame and a rim of the loading hole.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 6\_10, wherein the insertion groove is formed at the bottom of the lid frame except a portion to which the lid is connected.

8. (Original) The washing machine as claimed in claim 7, wherein the packing means comprises a gasket fitted to the insertion groove, a gasket partially protruding therefrom.

9. (Previously Presented) The washing machines as claimed in claim 8, wherein the gasket comprises:

a first gasket inserted in a front portion of the insertion groove of the lid frame; and  
a second gasket inserted in a rear portion of the insertion groove of the lid frame.

10. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim ~~17~~, wherein a plurality of inclined protrusions are formed on an inside of the insertion groove to have the packing means slide to be inserted thereon.

11-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim ~~14~~, wherein the lid frame part comprises an insertion groove to which the packing means is fitted.

18-20. (Canceled)